

# Education and Public Involvement

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## ***Puget Sound Management Plan Goals***

To support, improve and sustain regional education and public involvement programs that:

- Inform, educate and involve individuals, groups, businesses, industry and government in the cleanup and protection of Puget Sound.
- Increase understanding of the Sound's ecosystem.
- Create the commitment necessary to sustain efforts to improve and protect water quality and habitat over the long term.

## **Strategies for Achieving Goals**

- Create a public involvement policy for agencies and local governments.
- Help state agencies and tribal governments coordinate education programs on marine and freshwater habitats, water quality policy issues and volunteer action.
- Hire field agents to coordinate among local and regional education and public involvement programs.
- Administer a Public Involvement and Education Fund (PIE Fund) to support short-term public involvement and education efforts in both the private and public sectors.

## **Background and Trends**

Protecting water quality requires an ongoing commitment from the Puget Sound community—individuals, businesses and community groups, as well as government. Education and involvement of the public are vital components of a long-term management strategy for the Sound because they

enable citizens to make informed choices about actions to protect and preserve Puget Sound.

Since 1987, the legislature has funded an effective tool for protecting and improving the region's water quality—the Public Involvement and Education (PIE) Fund. Administered by the Action Team, the PIE Fund has provided more than \$5.2 million for 287 projects, reaching about three million people with the message of clean water. Projects conducted during the 1997-1999 state biennium directly reached more than 9,000 individuals and indirectly reached more than 140,000. The 13-year legacy of this program is a better informed and more involved public and enhanced stewardship of Puget Sound.

During the 1999-2001 biennium, the Action Team funded 16 projects. Each addressed one or more of the priorities identified in the 1999-2001 work plan.

Federal, tribal and state governments support local government environmental education efforts by providing financial and technical assistance on issues related to implementing the work plan. The Action Team coordinates technical assistance to help cities, counties and others implement actions in the work plan.

Field agents from the Washington State University Cooperative Extension and University of Washington Sea Grant programs help carry out the goals of this program by providing education in Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce and Thurston counties.

In addition, Action Team support staff coordinates water quality education and involvement activities with those of local governments, the Governor's Council on Environmental Education and the Joint Natural Resource Cabinet.

## **Highlights of 2001-2003 Actions**

- The Office of Community Development will work with others to conduct a short course on local planning for local officials and planners.
- The Department of Health and Action Team support staff will educate the public about water quality issues in the management plan and on findings from the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program.
- The Action Team support staff will distribute information on sources of funding to local governments.
- University of Washington Sea Grant Program will provide information and education on sources of nonpoint pollution and effective approaches to reduce and control it.
- Washington State University Cooperative Extension will provide outreach and education on water quality issues.

## **2001-2003 Budget for State Actions**

Total Enhancement	\$18,000
Total Provided Funding	\$2,989,233

		See page 9 for key.					
JOINT STATE AND FEDERAL ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri- ori- ty	Non- point	Sal- mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID

Coordinate education about Puget Sound and educate the public about water quality issues in the "Puget Sound Management Plan" and work plan, including encouraging media coverage of findings from the Puget Sound Ambient Monitoring Program and reports on Puget Sound's health.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

	An annual inventory will be published and distributed by June 1 of each year.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOH-02	EPI-2	120
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#### PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY ACTION TEAM

	Audiences will become better educated about environmental issues. Media will be provided with information on the health and management of Puget Sound.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-05	EPI-2	120
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		See page 9 for key.					
STATE AGENCY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID
<b>OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT</b>							
Work in coordination with other state agencies and the Planning Association of Washington in conducting a "short course on local planning" to city and county planning committees and public officials in the Puget Sound region. The course reflects the planning requirements of the Growth Management Act, the Shoreline Management Act and the Puget Sound management plan.	A planning course notebook of information will be distributed to short course participants that explains the various planning laws and programs in the state. In addition, the short course will feature expertise from consultants and other planning officials experienced with issues such as habitat protection and designing effective development regulations.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCD-01	EPI-1	121
<b>PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY ACTION TEAM</b>							
Collect and distribute information on sources of funding to local governments through the website, newsletters and other means.	Local governments will receive accessible, comprehensive and timely information on funding sources.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-05	EPI-9	122
Publish the "Sound Waves" newsletter and periodically survey readers.	Information on Puget Sound and opportunities to become involved in protecting it will be provided to more than 15,000 readers. Surveys will show "good" to "excellent" satisfaction with the newsletter.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-05	EPI-9	123
Use the Action Team web site as a key extension of the education program, providing easy access to information about water quality and biological resources.	Residents of the Puget Sound basin will be aware of and involved in issues related to protecting the Sound.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-05	EPI-9	124
Coordinate technical assistance and other state agency activities in local watersheds and encourage coordination of local efforts to protect water quality and resources. Educate work plan implementers about Puget Sound water quality issues, the "Puget Sound Management Plan" and work plan, and salmon recovery plans.	Work plan implementers will be better informed about the management of Puget Sound and will receive coordinated technical assistance and support. Support staff will complete 250 consultations per year. Educational materials and fact sheets will be distributed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-03	EPI-9	125
Provide funding for support of local projects to involve and educate the public in water quality issues (PIE projects). (Requested budget enhancement not received.)	Raise awareness of water quality issues by engaging citizens in actions to protect Puget Sound and through general and diverse education activities.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-05	EPI-8	126

STATE AGENCY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	See page 9 for key.					
		Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID

#### UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, WASHINGTON SEA GRANT PROGRAM

<p>Provide technical assistance, local coordination, education and public involvement for regional water quality and habitat groups, local decision-makers, health districts and communities. The education will reflect a multi-disciplinary knowledge base and focus on issues important to local communities and ecosystems.</p> <p>The educational efforts will assist the implementation of the Aquatic Nuisance Species, On-Site Sewage Systems, Shellfish Protection, Stormwater Management and Wetlands and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Protection programs in the 2001-2003 Puget Sound work plan.</p>	<p>Local communities, decision-makers, health districts and industries will be better able to recognize threats posed by non-indigenous species, failing on-site sewage systems and the loss of fish and wildlife habitat. They will be able to understand the range of nonpoint source pollution affecting their watersheds and how their actions affect this. They will know what actions are necessary to reclaim and keep shellfish beds from being degraded.</p> <p>Local communities and decision-makers will learn about decentralized and alternative systems, which will help them make appropriate decisions about repairing, upgrading or replacing individual on-site sewage systems that are failing.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UW-01	EPI-2	127
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#### WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

<p>Provide regional water quality specialists and extension educators to work with local governments, schools and community groups educate and involve the public, use volunteers to monitor water quality and encourage citizen participation in water quality issues. Efforts will focus on priority water quality, aquatic habitat and salmon-related issues. These local education efforts will be coordinated with regional, state and national efforts.</p>	<p>Educational efforts will assist the implementation of the Wetlands and Fish and Wildlife Protection, Shellfish Protection, On-Site Sewage Systems, Stormwater Management and other programs in the Puget Sound work plan.</p> <p>Education will have greater impact and use less resources through enhanced coordination, improved delivery and through the support and expertise provided. Area residents will change their behaviors to help protect the health of Puget Sound waters and resources.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	WSU-01	EPI-2	128
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